



SCHOOL  
CHOIR  
PERFORM AT  
FULHAM FC  
CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT

*Dear Families,*

At the end of a very busy and successful term, I would like to thank the students for their hard work and achievements so far.

Once again, we have many success stories to share and good news items to celebrate together. I would also like to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment, as well as parents and carers for your continued support of Raynes Park High School and our students.

We have entered fully into the spirit of the festive season with our choir singing at All Saints Church in Fulham and then again at the Raynes Park Christmas Festival; thank you to those families that were able to join us and support these events. We were

also delighted to be invited to the Literary festival where students represented Raynes Park High School at Merton Library. Last Friday, students enjoyed a Christmas lunch and we were pleased to raise money for 'Save the Children' by wearing Christmas jumpers.

The end of term is a good time to reflect on and celebrate our students' achievements since September. It is always my privilege to walk through the school each day and see students smartly dressed in their uniform, engaged in their lessons and displaying such a positive attitude to learning. I'm also so pleased to see the huge improvement in presentation that has been a focus of mine and it is wonderful to see students taking such pride in their books. This week, students have enjoyed Rewards Assemblies with their Head of Year and we were also delighted to celebrate our students' successes (academic year 2018 - 2019) at the annual Awards Assembly on Monday. Our former colleague (and Former Pupil), Mr Duus was able to join us to present the awards and we were so pleased that Milo Little's family were in attendance to present the award for kindness, in memory of Milo.

This year saw another record number of Year 7 students joining the school, with our top feeder school now a Kingston primary school. They have made a fantastic start at Raynes Park High School and have successfully completed their first term with us. The transition curriculum that was introduced in 2018 has gone from strength to strength and we were really pleased that so many families could join us for the Showcase Evening in September. We were also delighted to see so many families attending our second Challenge Evening where our Senior Teachers gave an update on the Scholars Programme for High Attainers.

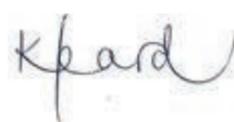
We were also delighted with our examination results this summer. A superb pass rate was achieved with 98% of all examinations passed. Over a third of all A-Levels taken were passed with grades A\*- B, and 65% were passed with grades A\* to C. The Vocational results were also impressive; the average grade achieved was a Distinction with the vast majority of students exceeding their target grades. At GCSE, we achieved a positive P8 score for the first time and, as a result, the school now sits in the top 40% nationally and has seen us move up 413 places in one academic year. We were particularly pleased that fifty grades were awarded at 9 (A\*\* equivalent) and forty grades at 8 (A\* equivalent).

On the sporting front, our collaboration with Fulham Football Club has been successful for a third year and the students involved in the education programme attending the Sixth Form have settled in well, managing their studies and training commitment. We held our second Sports Awards Evening at Craven Cottage in November and we were delighted that families were able to join us for this event. We have also continued to develop our partnership with BECSLink, awarding more Tim Henman Scholarships for our students to pursue an interest out of school and we are delighted to secure our partnership with Adidas for a second year.

Following the success of these events last year, we held our third Academic Target Setting Day in September, in addition to the Information Evenings at the start of term. We hope you found these to be informative and useful in supporting your child, and we will be holding an Academic Review Day in the summer term to discuss the progress made against these targets. We also held a Year 7 Progress Evening to discuss the first term in this crucial year; thank you for the positive feedback and suggestions as to how these events can be improved going forwards. I also remain committed to ensuring communication continues to improve and welcome parent feedback on this area too.

At the time of writing, I am looking forward to our whole school assembly on Friday. The assembly will see the students and staff celebrating student achievement together and congratulations to those students who have won awards. We are particularly lucky not to be saying goodbye to any of our colleagues this term and we are pleased to have welcomed back Ms McInerney from her maternity leave.

Raynes Park High School continues to be a thriving community and there is much to celebrate. We have already achieved so much this term; it is now time for a well-deserved break for our families, staff and students. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to welcoming in the new term on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January.



Mrs K Heard  
Headteacher



## CHALLENGE

It was fantastic to see so many of our families at the High Prior Attainers' Evening which took place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Challenge continues to be a key focus for the whole school and this was a good opportunity to share with our families details of how students are being challenged in the classroom as well as providing them with strategies on how to support their child at home. They were also given an overview of how our Scholars Programme works for High Attaining students. The evening concluded with an opportunity to meet Subject Leads and view some of the excellent student work in the departmental displays.

Immediately after half-term we held our first Challenge Showcase week of this academic year. Whilst students are encouraged to be challenged

in all lessons, the Showcase week gives the whole school an opportunity to celebrate the successes. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 were given stickers to collect on their Challenge Card on completion of challenge activities throughout the week. All students who completed their card were entered into a prize draw. The three winners received a £10 Book Token. Congratulations to Francesca (7JL), Mohamed (7JL) and Bisan (8MM) who received the tokens this term.

The Scholar's programme has once again started for Years 7 to 11; High Prior Attainers in these years will participate in three specially designed tutor time sessions in small groups at various times throughout the year. Students and their families will be informed of this.





**AWARDS EVENING**



**AWARDS EVENING**



On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, despite the cold and rain, we were delighted to welcome so many families to our Awards Evening. This was our biggest Awards Evening to date and we had to move to the Sports Hall to fit all the prize winners and their families in. We were treated to a song from the choir before the awards got under way with performances by Aaron in Year 11 and Madison in Year 10 during the evening. We welcomed back Former Pupil and Former Staff member, Mickey Duus, as our guest speaker and he handed out awards for attainment and effort in subjects as well as some special awards; The WH Auden Award for Poetry, The Alex Knapp Award for Music, The Claude Rogers Award for Art, The Paul Vaughan Award for STEM and The Milo Little Award for Kindness. After all the awards

had been given out, we heard from Mickey Duus about his time as a student and member of staff and he gave our students lots to think about.

We were also privileged to welcome back another Former Pupil and Former Head of Music, Alex Knapp, who played the school song for us and spoke about how important Music is to him as well as being able to hand out his new award for Music. Well done to all students who received an award on this evening and thank you to Mickey Duus, Alex Knapp and the Little family for handing awards to students.

*Ms J Fowler and Mr R Liyanage  
Assistant Headteachers*

AWARDS	
W H Auden Poetry Award	Yulia Christian
Alex Knapp Music Award	Madison Sheppard
Claude Rogers Art Award	Jazmin Poole
Paul Vaughan STEM Award	Martyna Blaszczyk
Milo Little Kindness Award	Kiera Hayles

HEADTEACHER AWARDS	
Year 7	Bisan Alnabulsi
Year 8	Vesela Stoyanova
Year 9	Ryan Sawyer
Year 10	Charlotte Brown
Year 11	Alex North
Year 12	Luisa Restrepo
Year 13	David Christodoulides

## AWARDS EVENING



## ADIDAS GRADUATION



# ADIDAS GRADUATION



Our Raynes Park Adidas Graduates were treated to a special graduation assembly on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019. All graduates received a special Adidas branded certificate and a badge for their blazers to celebrate their achievements. Over sixty students were awarded with either 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Honours (minimum of eight challenges completed), 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honours (minimum of ten challenges completed) and 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours (all twelve challenges completed). A huge congratulations to the Class of 2019 for their achievements and for being the first ever Adidas Scholars at Raynes Park High School.

**Mr C Wilson-Boyle**  
*Director of Sport*





# SCIENCE ASPIRATIONS



The Aspiration Project is a series of Science workshops to develop the skills of More Able students in STEM subjects. These workshops provide our young people an opportunity to expand and increase their knowledge in Science. The sessions were held at King's College Wimbledon, being facilitated and taught by their Sixth Form students and overseen by Miss Duncomb and Miss Yang, two of their Science teachers.

I would like to commend the Year 8 students who were at their utmost exceptional behaviour throughout the six-week course – they are truly excellent school ambassadors for Raynes Park High School.

**Mr Quitasol**  
Lead Science Technician

Going on this Science trip every week has given me a good opportunity to learn some more interesting things about science and the lessons have been very fun and made Science more understandable, as they go through what the chemicals we used are for and what they do. They also let us do fun experiments such as light and reflection – in that lesson we also made a periscope out of card and it was fun. It has been a great experience going to King's and I enjoyed it a lot.

**Rainie, Year 8**

The Friday weekly trip to King's was to do fun and interesting Science practicals. I have learnt new ways to have fun and investigate with Science and I have carried out my own light project where you use two mirrors to see anything from an angle. These trips were extraordinary as we made friends with the Sixth Formers and KS4 students that helped me and the other pupils from Raynes Park High School. The sessions went very quickly but I was privileged to be there along with other Year 8 students. This is an unforgettable memory and if ever I get invited again I will surely agree.

**Sulaymaan, Year 8**

I personally enjoyed my time at King's College, I loved all the experiments that we did. I really liked the fact that we were being taught by students, like ourselves. All the activities were fun and well-planned out. I looked forward to every Friday afternoon because I knew I would have a great Science lesson.

**Hubert, Year 8**

I really enjoyed going to the Science group at King's College because we were able to do lots of different experiments. My favourite experiment was the 'Egg Drop' because it was fun to see if anyone's egg would break. All of the eggs were safe after being dropped with their parachutes. I also enjoyed having the chance to mix different chemicals and put metals over a flame and see what colours the flames turn.

**Tom, Year 8**

The Science trip to King's College was fun yet helpful because I have learnt a lot. We did many activities over 3-4 sessions and workshops for Chemistry and Physics. We learnt about light and how it can bend and reflect. We also learnt about acids and alkalis. This was a great opportunity to enhance my learning and learn in a different school environment.

**Raya, Year 8**

The thing I enjoyed the most about the King's College Aspirations trip was the experiment where we used a flammable liquid to draw on filter paper, the drawing appeared invisible when dried but when it was lit it burned the dried liquid to reveal what we drew.

**Jedidah, Year 8**

The trip to King's College was really fun and enjoyable. We learnt a lot of new things, like how chemicals react. The students who taught us explained it to us clearly so we knew what to do. The tasks were fun and engaging, it made me want to come back after it finished. Thank you for the trip.

**Jessica, Year 8**

King's College was a great journey as the student helpers were friendly and their lessons were informative. The sessions were enjoyable and interesting which I am thankful about. Overall I would recommend the Aspirations Course to other Year 8s due to the well-made lessons and friendly students and staff. This shall be a trip that would stay in my head for time exist.

**Tien, Year 8**

I enjoyed King's College because I learnt things that I wouldn't have learned in normal lessons. I also enjoyed it because of how nice the Sixth Form students who were teaching us were. Overall, it was a great experience.

**Lucy, Year 8**

I really enjoyed going to King's College – my favourite lesson was the 'Egg Drop' because it was creative and the lesson on 'refraction' as it was intriguing and I learned a lot.

**Skye, Year 8**

I am so grateful for this opportunity that King's College has given me. During the short period I have learnt so much and have seen the great aspects of Science. King's College has provided me with important skills and knowledge but most of all an unforgettable set of memories. An example of this is a lesson we had on light and reflection – this helped me see the world in a different way and taught me how to manipulate light.

**Ed, Year 8**



# MERTON WINDRUSH LEGACY EVENT



On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 13 Raynes Park students attended the Merton Windrush Legacy Event at St Mark's Academy led by Dr H Patten.

This was a culmination of a project that the students had been working on for five weeks, and included Art, Music and Dance demonstrations. Our students created their own decorated suitcases, danced a traditional Jamaican quadrille, and performed an original song based around the history of Windrush.

The event was attended by over 200 guests, including students from four local schools, members of two community groups, teachers and parents.

Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah noted how she was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm and willingness of all students.

**Ms S Efford**  
Head of PE and PSCH





# SPORTS UPDATES



## SPORTS UPDATES



### Girls Football

There has been a huge push on girls football this term with Mr Wilson-Boyle taking charge of all age categories. Successes have included a third place finish in the U13, Merton School's competition. A penalty shoot-out win against Harris Morden ensured the bronze medal. The girls will feel unlucky they didn't make the final.

The girls continued their excellent run of form by coming third overall in a highly competitive English Football League tournament at Motspur Park Training Ground on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. The girls played seven group games, winning five and losing two. This was enough to secure a third place overall and safe passage to the semi-finals. An injury to one of our girls meant we were down a player in the semi-final and ultimately lost the game to a very talented Hurlingham Academy. I am very proud of the girls for their efforts.

Our U16 girls produced a stunning display to defeat Christs School in the ESFA Cup, winning emphatically 8-1! Some of the girls were treated to free tickets to watch England Ladies vs Germany Ladies at Wembley Stadium, an experience they thoroughly enjoyed (despite the rain and loss for the Lionesses!).

We received record numbers to our U12's football trials in September with over 30 girls turning up to try and make their way into the football squad! Football continues to grow here at Raynes Park.



### Boys Table Tennis

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, Raynes Park High School hosted the Merton Borough Year 8 and 9 competition for the first time and were victorious at the end of some titanic matches. Well done to Zeph, Ryan, Jamie, Damari, Jack, Tyrique, Keanu, Alfie, Dylan, Tom and Aaron for your fantastic efforts.

As a result of our U13's winning the borough competition, we took a squad to the South London region table tennis competition at Wilson's School on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November as representatives of Merton. Having been crowned borough champions, the boys faced champions from boroughs such as Richmond, Sutton, Kingston and Croydon for the right to be South London Champions. The boys faced stiff competition from powerhouse opposition in the form of Whitgift and Hampton, both all-boys independent schools, but the boys held their own in tightly fought games. Representation in such a competition demonstrates the strides the school has made in sports outside of our traditional areas of strength.





# ADIDAS ACADEMY



The Year 7s began their Adidas journey with a launch assembly after the first half term break. Set with a series of challenges, the students are in competition for the right to graduate in September 2020 and a select few to be taken up to Manchester for a tour of the amazing facilities up there.

Already, the students have begun compiling evidence for their booklets which has included visits to the O2 Arena to watch tennis (see page 21), attending a wide range of extra curricular clubs and working in PSCHE lessons towards a community action project.

An added bonus for our partnership with Fulham and Adidas is the annual representation at Craven Cottage for mascot duty. Three lucky Year 7 students took on mascot duties in the West London derby, Fulham vs QPR. On a cold Friday night, the students were treated to a tour of the stadium, given kit to keep and then walked the team out in front of a packed Craven Cottage and Sky Sports cameras. Meila, Jayden and Jack had a fantastic night and a win for Fulham capped off the occasion.

The Year 8 Adidas Graduates went on an epic trip by coach to Manchester on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. The lucky students made the journey as a result of passing all twelve of their Adidas Challenges in Year 7. The long hours on the coach did not take away the amazing experience the students

had when visiting the awe-inspiring Adidas headquarters in Stockport. Students were given exclusive access to winter 2020 designs, not viewed by any other members of the public. A delicious lunch in the swanky canteen was followed by a quick trip over to Old Trafford Stadium. The Theatre of Dreams lived up to expectations as the excited students were given a tour which included a visit to the changing rooms, a walk out to the pitch from the players tunnel and access to the managers' dugout. It was a truly once in a lifetime opportunity for these students and an inspirational experience of what life is like working for a multinational brand.

### Merton School Sports Partnership (MSSP)

A message from Merton School Sports Partnership:

*'Could you please pass on our thanks to the RP sports leaders for their efforts as by all accounts they have been exceptional and were really encouraging of the kids that attended the various competitions. I have already had some emails from schools saying how good the leaders were and how patient they were with the kids, great stuff!!'*

Our Year 9 students continue to support MSSP with leadership for primary school events. Thus far we have hosted hockey and numerous football competitions. The students are a credit to the school. Well done Jack, Brooke, Louie, Lola, Muskan, Jamie and Ogi for your efforts so far this year.



# SPORTS AWARDS

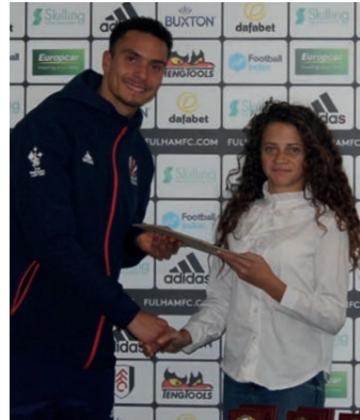
Our annual Sport Award Evening took place at Craven Cottage on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The students and guests were treated to the press room as the location for the event this time around, using a space graced by some of the greatest managers in the game. Our guest speaker, Wimbledon and GB Hockey player Rhys Smith, gave an inspirational speech about his sporting journey. It was a wonderful event with lots of winners across the various categories. Roll on next year's ceremony!

**Mr C Wilson-Boyle**  
Director of Sport

# OUR WINNERS

<b>Boys Participation</b>	Anton Georgiev
<b>Girls Participation</b>	Olivia Pires
<b>KS3 Team of the Year</b>	Year 7 Basketball Squad
<b>KS4 Team of the Year</b>	Wimbledon BBGs
<b>Community Award</b>	Ewan Wedderburn-Graham
<b>Leadership Award</b>	Zeph Stow
<b>Resilience Cup</b>	Oliver Hawkins
<b>Results Cup</b>	Natalia Oviedo
<b>Respect Cup</b>	Jack Chesworth
<b>Sports Personality of the Year</b>	Lucy Large







A huge congratulations to Thomas Hale for winning his first ever grade 4 Tennis tournament. He successfully defeated his opponent having overcome a difficult start winning, 0-6, 6-3, 10-6. He continues to improve through hard work and positive mindset. Congratulations Tom!



Congratulations to Tom Large who has been selected and offered a place on the prestigious National First Bowling Academy programme. His form for his cricket team has gained worthwhile recognition and he has earned the right to be there. Another Tom and another massive success!



# ATP TENNIS

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November a group of 39 Year 7 students were lucky enough to watch the ultimate Tennis show; The Nitto ATP Finals. For many of our students it was their first time watching Tennis and they were really lucky to see an unforgettable game which saw Nadal fight back from 5-1 down in the deciding set and saving a match point to beat fourth seed Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (3-7) 6-3 7-6 (7-4).

Thank you to BECSLink for arranging the tickets for our students.

**Ms C Holland**  
Assistant Head of Year 7



It was an absolute pleasure to take former Headteachers Ian Newman and David Giles for a tour of the Raynes Park Memorial Ground on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. The ground was named in memory of Former Pupils who lost their lives during the Second World War and was therefore a poignant time to visit during a week of Remembrance.

Blink and you'll miss her but our very own Megan in Year 11 appeared on two episodes of this seasons *X-Factor* as a backing dancer. Supporting acts such as Max and Harvey, Vinnie Jones and others, Megan got to rub shoulders with celebrities and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done Megan!!

Former pupil, Lerrone Richards added the British Super Middleweight title to his Commonwealth crown on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November with a split decision victory over Lennox Clarke. He continues to rise through a hugely competitive division and it will only be a matter of time until has first world title shot. Congratulations champ!

**Mr C Wilson-Boyle**  
Director of Sport





# MUSIC UPDATES

This is the first opportunity I have had to write about our current journey in this newsletter and I am delighted to say that after a long term there is indeed lots to report. Since joining the school at Easter, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing our students' engagement begin to soar within the Music department and we are also making waves within the local community and beyond. Our move from GCSE to a BTEC qualification has opened opportunities for students that have an interest in music production and live sound engineering to prosper within our department and I believe we are now making real strides towards becoming one of the flagship

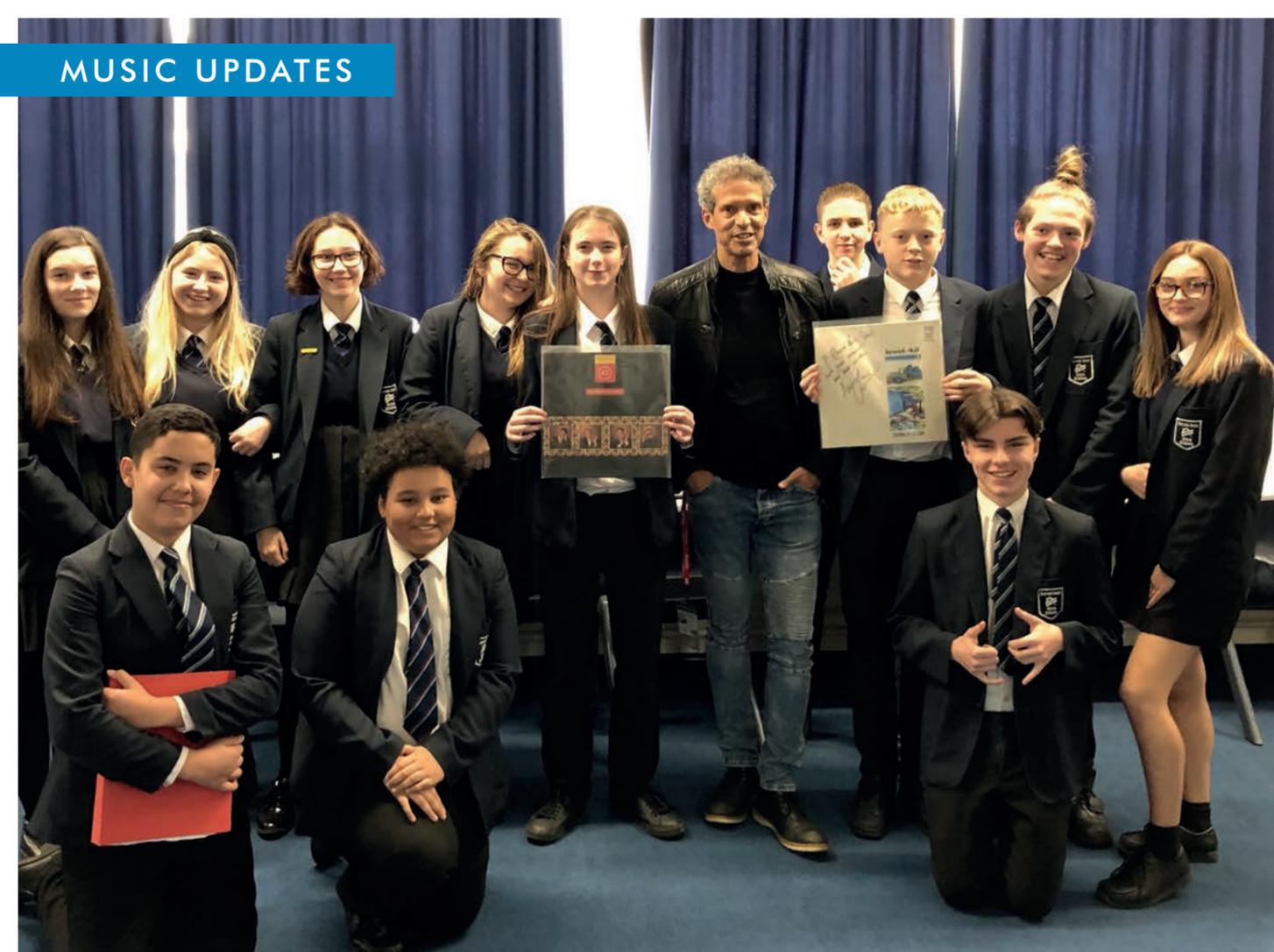
Music departments within Merton. All of our successes both within the classroom and during performances could not be achieved without the support of our staff (both within the Music department and beyond) so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Hughes-Brown, Mr Burnett, Ms Neale, Ms Efford and Ms Ruberry for their continuing support this year. I'd also like to thank all of the students who are continuing to make our music department a vibrant place of learning. Working with you all has already become a highlight of my career to-date and I look forward to seeing Music grow within the school in the future.

## Fulham FC Christmas Concert

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December our choir of 36 voices from across Years 7 to 11 travelled to Craven Cottage, the home of Fulham Football Club for a private tour of the ground and facilities, including having an exclusive tour of the changing rooms and the famous balcony of Craven Cottage itself. Later that evening our choir performed a selection of carols with a congregation of over 200 people in the inaugural 'FFC Winter Concert' to raise awareness and funds for the Fulham FC Foundation. Our choir were absolutely fantastic on the evening both in their performance but also in the fantastic way they represented the school. I know I speak on behalf of Mrs Heard, our governors and staff that attended when I say that I couldn't have been prouder of our students. They showed our school in its best possible light and the evening has become one of the true highlights of my career to date. Thanks to the support from our families, we have raised over £300 for the FFC Foundation and we are already in talks about how we are going to make next year's event even better.

## Raynes Park Festival

Following the performance in Fulham, we ventured out again to Raynes Park station with our choir, instrumentalists and musicians and took part in an extended performance at the Raynes Park Festival, in collaboration with Raynes Park Community Church and the Salvation Army. On this drizzly Friday evening our students managed to keep everyone smiling as local commuters and businesses enjoyed our Music and Dance performances. The choir performed their entire repertoire and led the singing along with the Salvation Army band in front of the Mayor of Merton; Aaron Grinsted performed a stunning rendition of 'Shallow' on his violin, and then our dancers from Key Stages 3 and 4 treated the audience to three dances in jazz, contemporary and Bollywood styles. A huge 'thank you' must go to Ms Neale who has worked so hard with her dance troops and I look forward to seeing how these progress in the coming months.



## MIKE LINDUP MASTERCLASS

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Former Pupil and musician Mike Lindup (Keyboard player, vocalist and songwriter of Level 42) gave our KS4 musicians a masterclass on the music industry to support their studies of the BTEC exam unit. We are so grateful that Mike gave up his time to share his experiences with us and his session really helped bring the knowledge that we have learnt in the classroom to life. Mike also performed a beautiful acoustic version of the band's 1985 hit 'Something About You' which was a real treat for our students and staff.

**Mr M Robinson**  
Head of Music

### New Apple Mac Suite

We have made a significant investment in our Music Technology facilities within our department and now have brand new 12 Apple Mac computers running Logic Pro X software. As we have moved towards a vocational programme of study at KS4, these new industry-standard resources are offering students the opportunity to gain the skills and experience of how music is produced in the modern music industry. Our Year 10 and 11 students are now learning music sequencing skills using the equipment that is found in modern recording studios, which is helping them deliver work (and build a portfolio) that they can take forward to future employers and universities.

### The School Song

In a complete juxtaposition to our new Apple Mac Suite, I am proud to announce the revival of the Raynes Park High School song. The song was created in the 1930s with lyrics written by WH Auden. In recent years, the song has been somewhat 'lost in time' and was only ever sung by our previous students at annual events. The school song is now resonating through our school hall once again and was sung with great pride by our Year 7 students in our Remembrance Assembly.

It has been a real pleasure hearing our students sing this song around the school and it has now become a feature at whole-school events as our students remember all of those who 'were at school here too.'

### Awards Evening

Our Awards Evening on Monday was a lovely way to celebrate the end of the Autumn Term with students and parents. Our new 'Alex Knapp Music Award' has been named in honour of our esteemed Former Pupil and it was absolutely wonderful to have him visiting the department and presenting this award to our very own Madison (Year 10). Madison has shown a consistently high level of commitment to her piano skills development throughout her time at the school so there was very little debate between myself and Ms Hughes-Brown when it came to deciding who would be the first recipient of this award. Madison has continued to be an inspiration to those around her and we look forward to seeing her musicianship develop further as she moves into Year 11.

**Mr M Robinson**  
Head of Music



# CHRISTMAS LITERARY FESTIVAL

Raynes Park Christmas Literary Festival is an annual event which aims to bring the community together to share favourite festive readings and poems or works of their own creation. The event was held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December and was hosted by the chair of MyRaynesPark, Tom Underwood. This year we had five Year 10 students representing Raynes Park High School, Aaron, Anna, Cerys, Nathan and Ariana who was ready to step in if needed and offered support and general cheerleading!

Nathan started with a classic extract from Dicken's *A Christmas Carol* and regaled the audience with the scene describing the Cratchits' Christmas Dinner. Cerys wrote her own piece called *Santa Exposed* which gave a behind the scenes account of Christmas from a disgruntled Elf's point of view, exposing the fact that Santa is lazy. Aaron and Anna read *The Grinch who Stole Christmas*, Aaron narrated and Anna read the part of The Grinch.

Adorned with Christmas jumpers, ties and tinsel they all did a brilliant job of reading to a large audience of all ages. Many people in the audience were members of local writing groups, all used to performing in front of people, so our students really did well to deliver their chosen pieces with such confidence and style.

**Ms E Scott**  
Head of English



## Santa Exposed by Cerys

**WE** all know Santa don't we?

What's he do eh?

Only working once a night and taking all credit whilst us elves are out every day and every night and all we get is a crumb of a mince pie or, if we're lucky, a pat on the back.

I am sick of it!

Me, Paul, Sammy, Ruby, Madison, and the rest of us are honestly considering quitting this job and working at Tesco's .... Or even Lidl at this point!

At least we would get a day off. You wanna know something else about Santa? Do ya!? Well those carrots you lot leave out for Rudolph, Dasher, and the other reindeers, he eats them as well! I mean how greedy!

So, now you know the tea on Santa, so maybe ... just maybe, write us elves a letter or leave us out some brandy and mince pies. Merry Christmas!

## from *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

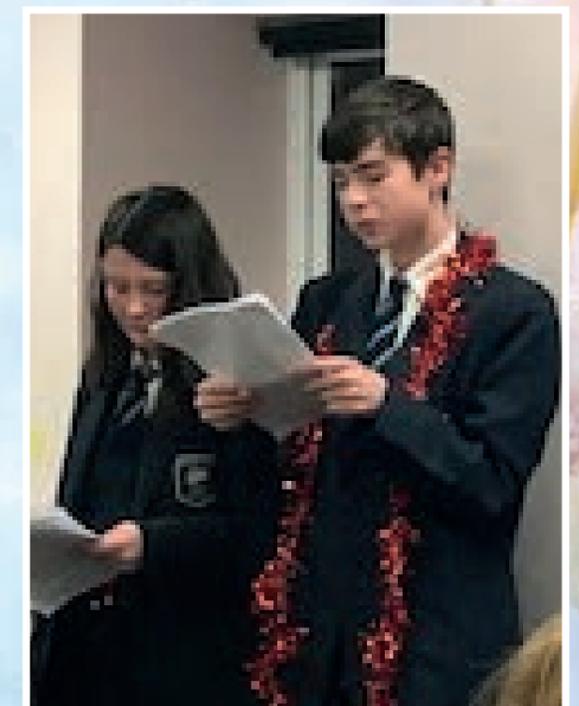
**SUCH** a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds; a feathered phenomenon, to which a black swan was a matter of course - and in truth it was something very like it in that house. Mrs Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour; Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause, as Mrs Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it in the breast; but when she did, and when the long expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried Hurrah!

There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last! Yet every one had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows! But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs Cratchit left the room alone—too nervous to bear witnesses—to take the pudding up and bring it in.

Suppose it should not be done enough! Suppose it should break in turning out! Suppose somebody

should have got over the wall of the back-yard, and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose - a supposition at which the two young Cratchits became livid! All sorts of horrors were supposed.

Hallo! A great deal of steam! The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing-day! That was the cloth. A smell like an eating-house and a pastrycook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next door to that! That was the pudding! In half a minute Mrs Cratchit entered - flushed, but smiling proudly - with the pudding, like a speckled cannon-ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half of half-a-quarter of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.



# CHRISTMAS LITERARY FESTIVAL

## HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

BY DR SEUSS

**EVERY** Who Down in Whoville Liked Christmas a lot ...

But the Grinch, Who lived just north of Whoville, Did NOT!

The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season!

Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason.

It could be his head wasn't screwed on just right.

It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight.

But I think that the most likely reason of all,

May have been that his heart was two sizes too small.

Whatever the reason, His heart or his shoes,

He stood there on Christmas Eve, hating the Whos,

Staring down from his cave with a sour, Grinchy frown,

At the warm lighted windows below in their town.

For he knew every Who down in Whoville beneath,

Was busy now, hanging a mistletoe wreath.

'And they're hanging their stockings!' he snarled with a sneer,

'Tomorrow is Christmas! It's practically here!'

Then he growled, with his Grinch fingers nervously drumming,

'I MUST find some way to stop Christmas from coming!'

For Tomorrow, he knew, all the Who girls and boys,

Would wake bright and early. They'd rush for their toys!

And then! Oh, the noise! Oh, the Noise!

Noise! Noise! Noise!

That's one thing he hated! The NOISE!

NOISE! NOISE! NOISE!

Then the Whos, young and old, would sit down to a feast.

And they'd feast! And they'd feast! And they'd FEAST!

FEAST! FEAST! FEAST!

They would feast on Who-pudding, and rare Who-roast beast.

Which was something the Grinch couldn't stand in the least!

And THEN They'd do something He liked least of all!

Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small,

Would stand close together, with Christmas bells ringing.

They'd stand hand-in-hand. And the Whos would start singing!

They'd sing! And they'd sing! And they'd SING!

SING! SING! SING!

And the more the Grinch thought of this Who ChristmasSing,

The more the Grinch thought, 'I must stop this whole thing!'

'Why, for fifty-three years I've put up with it now!'

'I MUST stop this Christmas from coming! But HOW?'

Then he got an idea! An awful idea!

THE GRINCH GOT A WONDERFUL, AWFUL IDEA!

'I know just what to do!' The Grinch laughed in his throat.

And he made a quick Santy Claus hat and a coat.

And he chuckled, and clucked, 'What a great Grinchy trick!'

'With this coat and this hat, I look just like Saint Nick!'

'All I need is a reindeer...' The Grinch looked around.

But, since reindeer are scarce, there was none to be found.

Did that stop the old Grinch? No! The Grinch simply said,

'If I can't find a reindeer, I'll make one instead!'

So he called his dog, Max. Then he took some red thread,

And he tied a big horn on the top of his head.

THEN He loaded some bags And some old empty sacks,

On a ramshackle sleigh And he hitched up old Max.

Then the Grinch said, 'Giddap!' And the sleigh started down,

Toward the homes where the Whos Lay asnooze in their town.

All their windows were dark. Quiet snow filled the air.

All the Whos were all dreaming sweet dreams without care.

When he came to the first little house on the square.

'This is stop number one,' the old Grinchy Claus hissed,

And he climbed to the roof, empty bags in his fist.

Then he slid down the chimney. A rather tight pinch.

But, if Santa could do it, then so could the Grinch.

He got stuck only once, for a moment or two.

Then he stuck his head out of the fireplace flue.

Where the little Who stockings all hung in a row.

'These stockings,' he grinned, 'are the first things to go!'

Then he slithered and slunk, with a smile most unpleasant,

Around the whole room, and he took every present!

Pop guns! And bicycles! Roller skates! Drums!

Checkerboards! Tricycles! Popcorn! And plums!

And he stuffed them in bags. Then the Grinch, very nimbly,

Stuffed all the bags, one by one, up the chimney!

Then he slunk to the icebox. He took the Whos' feast!

He took the Who-pudding! He took the roast beast!

He cleaned out that icebox as quick as a flash.

Why, that Grinch even took their last can of Who-hash!

Then he stuffed all the food up the chimney with glee.

'And NOW!' grinned the Grinch, 'I will stuff up the tree!'

And the Grinch grabbed the tree, and he started to shove,

When he heard a small sound like the coo of a dove.

He turned around fast, and he saw a small Who!

Little Cindy-Lou Who, who was, not more than two.

The Grinch had been caught by this tiny Who daughter,

Who'd got out of bed for a cup of cold water.

She stared at the Grinch and said, 'Santy Claus, why,'

'Why are you taking our Christmas tree? WHY?'

But, you know, that old Grinch was so smart and so slick,

He thought up a lie, and he thought it up quick!

'Why, my sweet little tot,' the fake Santy Claus lied,  
'There's a light on this tree that won't light on one side.'  
'So I'm taking it home to my workshop, my dear.'  
'I'll fix it up there. Then I'll bring it back here.'  
And his fib fooled the child. Then he patted her head,  
And he got her a drink and he sent her to bed.  
And when CindyLou Who went to bed with her cup,  
HE went to the chimney and stuffed the tree up!  
Then the last thing he took Was the log for their fire!  
Then he went up the chimney, himself, the old liar.  
On their walls he left nothing but hooks and some wire.  
And the one speck of food That he left in the house,  
Was a crumb that was even too small for a mouse.  
Then He did the same thing To the other Whos' houses  
Leaving crumbs Much too small For the other Whos' mouses!  
It was quarter past dawn ... All the Whos, still a-bed,  
All the Whos, still asnooze When he packed up his sled,  
Packed it up with their presents! The ribbons! The wrappings!  
The tags! And the tinsel! The trimmings! The trappings!  
Three thousand feet up! Up the side of Mt. Crumpit,  
He rode with his load to the tiptop to dump it!  
'PoohPooh to the Whos!' he was grinchishly humming.  
'They're finding out now that no Christmas is coming!'  
'They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do!'  
'Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,  
Then the Whos down in Whoville will all cry BooHoo!'

'That's a noise,' grinned the Grinch, 'That I simply MUST hear!'  
So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear.  
And he did hear a sound rising over the snow.  
It started in low. Then it started to grow.  
But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry!  
It couldn't be so! But it WAS merry! VERY!  
He stared down at Whoville! The Grinch popped his eyes!  
Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise!  
Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small,  
Was singing! Without any presents at all!  
He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME!  
Somehow or other, it came just the same!  
And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow,  
Stood puzzling and puzzling: 'How could it be so?'  
'It came with out ribbons! It came without tags!'  
'It came without packages, boxes or bags!'  
And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.  
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!  
'Maybe Christmas,' he thought, 'doesn't come from a store.'  
'Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!'  
And what happened then? Well ... in Whoville they say,  
That the Grinch's small heart Grew three sizes that day!  
And the minute his heart didn't feel quite so tight,  
He whizzed with his load through the bright morning light,  
And he brought back the toys! And the food for the feast!  
And he, HE HIMSELF! The Grinch carved the roast beast!



## TYCOON ENTERPRISE COMPETITION



Throughout this term Year 12 students have participated in the Tycoon Enterprise Competition. This is a kick-starter initiative supported by The Peter Jones Foundation (*Dragons' Den*) whereby teams can receive a good will loan of up to £2000 to help launch their own business. Students have been developing their plans over a seven week period in preparation for the Spring trading window; 24<sup>th</sup> February – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Please keep an eye out for the launch of their businesses as they will be operating throughout the school and in the local community.

**Mr M Langford**  
Business Studies Teacher



# YEAR 9 BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DAY



On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, Year 9 students with the highest House Points to date this academic year, were provided with a brief of redesigning and rebranding the School's House system against some incredibly strict design criteria. The students worked in teams in an *Apprentice* style setting producing mood boards, logos and straplines that incorporated the original Housemasters' core values. They went on to design excellence in the form of T-Shirts that exhibited these professional creations to a strict panel of Judges, including Ms Brake who works with leading industry experts, Mr King, Mr Wilson-Boyle and Ms Bowes. The morning was a huge success and really showcased what our students are capable of as they worked together as House teams to produce and pitch excellence for their Houses. The winning groups that represented Miltons, Newsoms, Halliwells and Gibbs will have their T-shirts professionally printed to represent their Houses. A special thank you to Mr Langford for planning and co-ordinating the day; a great success!

**Ms R Sandhu**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher





## REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY

We were delighted to once again be joined by Former Pupils and Governors at our annual Year 7 Remembrance Assembly which this year was held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Students and guests heard from members of the Humanities Department about what life is and was like at war as well as touching personal tributes about their own, and family members, experiences. At 11am the whole school joined in the two minutes silence to remember those who have lost their lives in wars and particularly those students from Raynes Park High School who did not return home in the Second World War. It was lovely to hear Year 7 sing the school song alongside our guests, at the end of the assembly.

**Mr L King**  
Deputy Headteacher

1939	IN MEMORIAM	1945
M H C ASHDOWN		J E FISHER
W A BAILEY		A UFF
R W JONES		J F SMITH
J A G BILLINGHAM		B PARKER
R L BARNES		J A SMITH
D C MAYNARD		S G PALK
D H ELLIS		V G SAYER
A V I COOK		R D FRANKS
F E SPINKS		C G LEY
J W ROBBINS		E G HUTCHIN



## FOOD BANK DONATION



As part of a school wide Harvest Festival initiative, Raynes Park students were asked to donate items for Wimbledon Food Bank. Over 100 students contributed to the collection, which filled three shopping trolleys. On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November the following four students helped deliver the donation to the food bank base; Thomas, Noah, Raya, and Charley.

Representatives for the Trussell Trust organisation told us that the benefaction was invaluable at this current time of need, and passed on their thanks to all teachers and students who helped support the collection.

**Ms S Efford**  
Head of RE & PSHE



## COLLEGE TASTER AFTERNOONS



In October, selected Year 11 students were welcomed to Merton College and Carshalton College for a tour of the facilities and a chance to meet course tutors. Students were able to see the motor vehicle and construction workshops at Carshalton College and the specialist Catering and Science departments at Merton College and more.

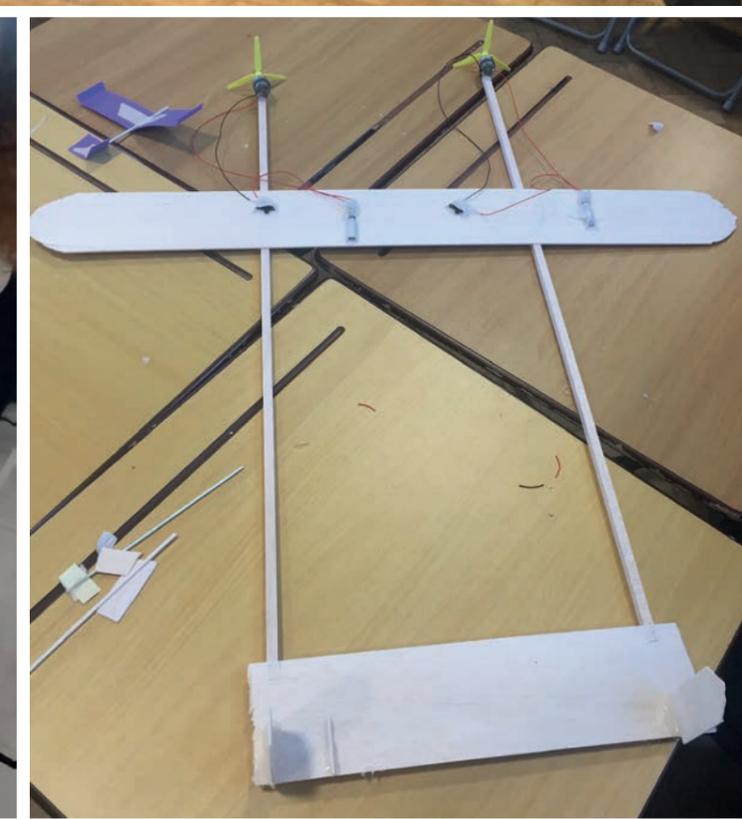
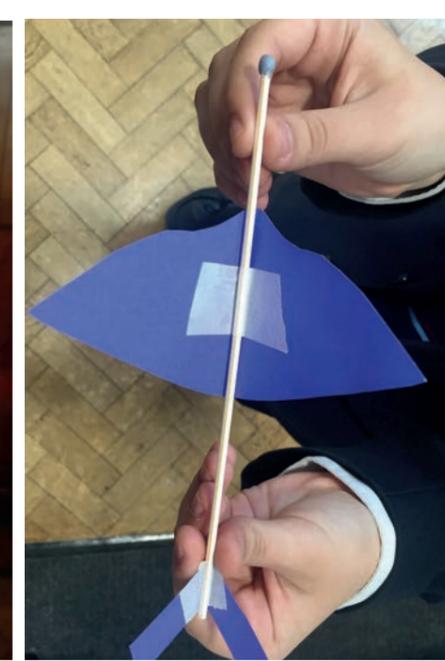
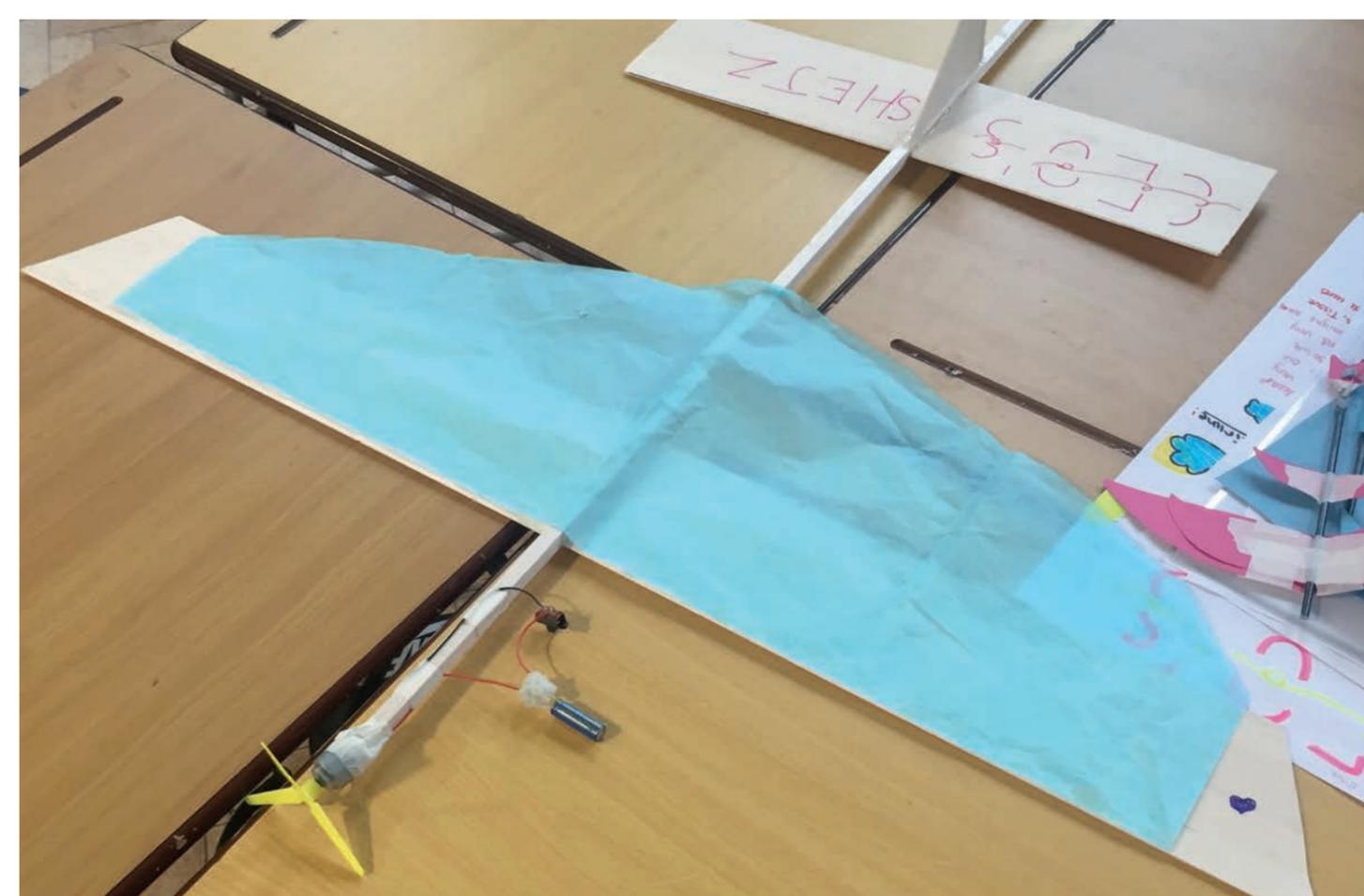
The visits gave an insight into what studying at a Further Education College is like and we hope have helped our students to make the important decisions about their next steps.

**Ms B Brake**  
*Careers Leader*



## REAL TRIP TO AN INSPECTOR CALLS





# BECSLINK SCIENCE

This year, Raynes Park High School have collaborated with BECSLink and the Tim Henman Foundation to provide workshops for Year 9 students, developing their skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). In groups the students had the morning to create a brand, calculate the costings and design an aerodynamic plane. Once their plans had been finalised, the students then built their planes based on their earlier designs, which included putting together their very own motor. The students then had to pitch their concept and sell their ideas to the rest of the year before the main event ... the test flights! All students were incredibly engaged in the day's activities and gained an insight into the many different careers available in STEM. Zuzanna from the overall Year 9 winning team, The CEOs, has reflected on her day: 'I had a good time doing the BECSLink activity and learnt new things. I now understand more about aerodynamics, how to build an aircraft and how it works whilst having fun!'

Thank you to BECSLink and the Tim Henman Foundation for funding this amazing workshop.

**Ms K Burkin**  
Head of Science



## 中英数学教师交流项目

ENGLAND-SHANGHAI MATHEMATICS TEACHER EXCHANGE  
UK-CHINA HIGH LEVEL PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIALOGUE

2019年11月 中国·上海  
November, 2019 Shanghai, China

# SHANGHAI TRIP

I was lucky enough to be selected to participate in the England-Shanghai Mathematics Teacher Exchange as one of 107 maths teachers from across England. Approximately two-thirds of the teachers were primary teachers and one-third were secondary teachers. These exchanges have taken place as a result of Shanghai students topping the PISA tables in Mathematics in 2012 and because students in China were considered to be three years ahead of their UK counterparts in terms of mathematical problem solving. The teachers from Shanghai will be coming to schools across England in March 2020 on the second part of the exchange.

I don't think that we could have had a warmer welcome than we did. We were often treated as celebrities (I don't think I have had to smile for the camera so much in my life!), and on the free day on Saturday our partner teachers took us out for the day to visit an ancient water town and treat us to many of the food and drink on offer.

Whilst there I participated in lectures and workshops organised by the Shanghai Normal University, where fifty years of research into teaching Mathematics has taken place. I spent a total of six days working in two secondary schools and two days in primary schools. We observed lessons, TRGs and held many, many discussions about the similarities and differences between our schools in England and those in Shanghai. We were also treated to some extra-curricular activities such as tennis, Tea Art and calligraphy!

I learned so much in my time there, but the collaboration between teachers within a department (as well as across schools and Shanghai as a whole) really was phenomenal and that, combined with the thought and care that goes into every tiny detail of each lesson are some things that I hope we can take inspiration from as a school and in a wider context across the country.

**Ms C Henderson**  
Maths Teacher





# GIBBS HOUSE UPDATE

Great start! Firstly, a big thank you and welcome to all of the Year 7 Gibbs students who have joined our House this academic year and started in such a positive manner, accumulating a large percentage of our overall House point total so far.

There have already been a number of activities to get our teeth into as a House and we have been successful in several of these up to now. Well done to the Year 9 Gibbs Enterprise and Business team who won the challenge to develop clothing for our House brand. We have also made great contributions to the Spelling Bee competition in English and to whole school charity events such as; Jeans 4 Genes, Macmillan Coffee Morning and our own staff charity netball game. In which the Gibbs and Newsoms team beat the Halliwells and Miltons team 11-10!

Finally, a big congratulations to the following students who have been made House Leaders for their year groups, after completing application letters and displaying a positive attitude around school. Our new House Leaders are; Lola (Year 7), Sulyamaan (Year 8), Maddie (Year 9), Raquel (Year 10) and our Year 11 House Captain this year is Luisa.

I'd like to wish all Gibbs pupils a very Merry Christmas break. Rest, relax and recharge those batteries so that we can hit the ground running in January and solidify our position as the number #1 House in the school.

Enjoy and stay safe!

*Mr J Wheel*

Head of Gibbs



# NEWSOMS HOUSE UPDATE

What an absolutely fantastic start to the year! I have been utterly overwhelmed by the efforts, attitude and responsibility demonstrated by Newsoms House students thus far this year. Earlier in this academic year, part of the focus of our first House assembly was on the ethos and values expected and demonstrated by Newsoms. In particular, we discussed that 'our House is grounded in the idea of family and belonging'. I have experienced this first hand in the warm welcome received by me as your new Head of House. Thank you! In addition, I have received a plethora of comments from Year 7 students about how pleased they are to represent this House and already I have observed them embodying not only the Raynes Park High School values, but Newsoms values too. Keep this up Year 7 and welcome to the family!

The calendar of House events for the year has already been busy and is rapidly growing with exciting events for the year. Thank you to the newly appointed House Leaders for all of your contributions and ideas for moving forward into 2020. Your work with the Heads of House and Ms Audley has been invaluable. You have taken on this new responsibility with ease and this is a huge support to the whole school community. It was amazing to see you rally up so many supporters for the staff charity netball tournament and your chants and cheers, I'm sure, helped lead to Newsoms (along with Gibbs) emerging victorious!

On the subject of House Leaders, I would like to congratulate all who were successful after a gruelling application and interview process. I was impressed with the organisation, slickness and confidence that was

demonstrated when detailing your vision and suitability for the role. Our new House Leaders are: Miela (Year 7), Raya (Year 8), Jasmin (Year 9), Vaamini (Year 10) and our Year 11 House Captain is Abby. Massive congratulations!

I look forward to all of the challenges and opportunities that 2020 brings and all of the achievements that Newsoms House will undoubtedly be celebrating by the end of next term.

Have a very festive Christmas and I wish you a happy new year.

All the best.

*Mr M Malaraphy*

Head of Newsoms



# MILTONS HOUSE UPDATE

Wow what a start to the year for Miltons!

To begin with, I'd like to welcome all of our new and amazing Year 7 Miltons students; I'm sure you will make strong contributions to our House, both academically and socially this year. To date, your contributions to House Points and overall attendance has been fantastic and we are proud to welcome you to the dynamic community that is Miltons House.

This term has been an extremely busy one with a hive of activities occurring across the House system. The Enterprise Day involving Year 9s was extremely productive as the Miltons students competed to develop clothing for their House. The winning Miltons team included: Emma, Lola, Talitha, Muskan and Archie. Huge congratulations to all Miltons participants; according to the judges this was not an easy decision. Furthermore, a Spelling Bee competition took place across Years 7, 8 and 9 during tutor time where students battled to be the best speller in their tutor group. This was met with enthusiasm and some wonderful achievements from Miltons House.

As regards to whole school events, we participated in 'Jeans 4 Genes' and Macmillan Coffee Morning where cakes and donuts were sold to support charity. Two weeks ago, the annual charity netball competition took place where Miltons (teamed with Halliwells) were beaten by the narrowest of margins (10-11).

Finally, our House Leaders were appointed during this term. My congratulations to Jack (Year 7), Harriet (Year 8), Daniel (Year 9), Tiah (Year 10) and Balazs (Year 11).

As Head of Miltons House, I would like to wish all Miltons students a merry and festive Christmas. Remember to take time over the holiday period to appreciate others and show gratitude. Let's make next term our best yet.

Take care.

*Ms A Taylor*

Head of Miltons



# HALLIWELLS HOUSE UPDATE

I am so proud of the amazing start that the Halliwells students have made this term and I hope it continues into 2020.

After very difficult deliberation over some great candidate applications, we have chosen our House Leaders to be Zoe, Charley, Jamie and Natalia; together they are going to help Halliwells achieve incredible things over the next academic year.

As a House we have managed to accumulate over 11,000 House Points - massive congratulations goes to Year 8 who have earned over 4,300! This vast number of House Points shows how many times Halliwells students are being recognised for their amazing effort, attainment and kindness.

There have been so many fantastic events since September from House Spelling Bees and Staff House Netball to a Year 9 Enterprise Event and Christmas Jumper Day. Halliwells students have taken part with such enthusiasm and pride for representing their House, and I

am so excited for the many events that are coming up next term. I know we will do brilliantly once more!

Our chosen House charity is Shelter, and in the Spring Term, Halliwells will be putting together a fundraising campaign to raise awareness and support the charity; I am eagerly awaiting all of the amazing suggestions that the students have on how we can raise money for this fantastic cause.

Over the next term we are going to focus on attendance, to ensure we reach and exceed our attendance target of 96% - a massive well done to all of the Halliwells students who have maintained 100% attendance since September.

It has been a pleasure to be the new Head of Halliwells, and I can't wait to show the rest of the school just how great all of you really are!

*Ms M Bowes*

Head of Halliwells

# Do you shop online?

The school can get a donation when you do, for free!

**Raynes Park High School Charitable Trust** raises funds to support our students. The Trust has funded several projects including funding equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as small grants to individual students. The trustees are keen to do more and need funds to do so.

One way you can donate to the Trust without it costing you anything is to shop online via 'easyfundraising' which turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for the school. There are over 3600 retailers including many big names such as Amazon, M&S, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Tesco, John Lewis, Ebay and Argos and many specialist retailers.

So next time you want to do some online shopping please go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/raynesparkhs) and click 'support this cause' then register for easyfundraising and find the retailer you want. Once you have chosen your retailer you will go to their website as normal to make your purchase. The retailers then make a small donation to the Trust. The size of the donation varies with the retailer - but every little helps!

It will cost you nothing but will help the school. You will get reminders once registered with easyfundraising.

Please give it a try!



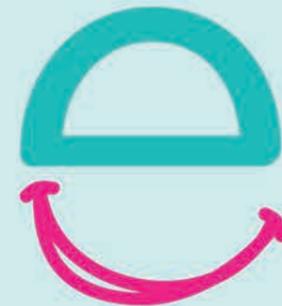
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1

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2

Choose your retailer and shop as normal

3

Retailers will make a small donation to the Trust at no extra cost to you



# NEWS FROM THE Governors

As the new Chair of Governors, I am extremely lucky to be surrounded by an excellent and experienced Board and, as ever, our role is to challenge and support the school's senior leaders. With the new student intake, the Autumn Term is always particularly busy and this year we faced an exciting challenge to take into Year 7 a new all-time high of 229 students, an astonishing endorsement of the demand and popularity of Raynes Park High School in the area. The school continues to enjoy an expanding profile within the local communities of Merton, Kingston and Wandsworth: for example, two of our top three feeder primary schools are now in Kingston.

Absorbing these expanding numbers does come at a cost and applies some pressure on the Senior Leadership Team and on the Governors, who are required by law to ensure that the school remains financially viable. However, with good forward planning, Raynes Park High School remains in a good position and we should be able to find the funds to cope with any additional demand for places.

A great help in this are the tremendous sporting facilities and connections that the school now has to offer: we are helped by our link with Championship side Fulham FC to fund Sixth Form places for their students.

We also have the impressive, AstroTurf pitch, newly developed to an international standard with Wimbledon Hockey Club and enjoy

other links with organisations and companies through our BECSLink membership. We are also exploring ways to seek investment in helping to renovate the school's three tennis courts and to make full use of the school's existing football pitches accessed off Westway Close.

The school prides itself on continuing to improve its teaching and learning standards ... the 90 Grade 9s and 80 Grade 8s at GCSE last year illustrate just how well Raynes Park High School is performing.

The Governing Body has a programme of seven meetings during the term, covering a variety of topics and we have also undertaken two Strategic Visits to the school, which enables us to remain in close contact with the Headteacher, senior leaders and their teams, as well as communicating directly with students themselves. There is no doubt that the school continues to do well and as Governors, we feel that it is our responsibility to support these efforts and to push it to do even more.

During the term, Governors have been pleased to take part in the school's Open Evenings for the main school and the Sixth Form, its Remembrance Assembly (where the new school choir performed so impressively), the Raynes Park High School Sports Awards, held at Fulham FC's Craven Cottage football stadium, and the Awards Evening. The school choir has performed at Raynes Park Christmas Festival and at the carol concert for Fulham FC and Raynes Park High

School, held at All Saints Church in Fulham.

Membership of the Full Governing Body has seen a few changes from the beginning of the Autumn Term. We say goodbye to Kara Thwaites as a parent governor and to a co-opted governor, Bukky Maybank, who had offered invaluable help to the school during its extended negotiations with the Wimbledon Hockey Club. We wish them both well and thank them both for their valued work on the Governing Body.

We now have two new governors: Lise Charmillot joins us a co-opted governor and with her banking background will be an asset to our financial needs. Also joining us as a parent governor is Maxine Ovens and she is already taking an active part in the work of the Governing Body.

It would be wonderful if we could generate additional parental involvement in 2020 - there will be an opportunity for this next term when we hold an election for the final Parent Governor vacancy. We do hope that some parents (and carers) will consider submitting their names to take part in the ballot, to establish continued parental presence on the Governing Body.



**Stephen Benjamin**  
Chair of Governors

Find out more about the work of our  
School Governors here:

[www.rphs.org.uk/31/governors](http://www.rphs.org.uk/31/governors)

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